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Exploration and Discovery.

PROFESSOR PETRIE'S "EGYPTIAN RESEARCH ACCOUNT."

THE readers of the BIBLICAL WORLD, who have been following Mr. Petrie's work as chronicled in these pages, will be interested to know that an excellent representative selection of his last winter's "finds" at Thebes has recently arrived at Haskell Oriental Museum of The University of Chicago, where they are now being installed. A brief description of these accessions, with illustrations, is appended below.

In July 1894 Mr. Petrie published a circular organizing the "Egyptian Research Account," a fund for the purpose of carrying on excavations in Egypt by those methods which have made his work so economical and so very successful during a period of fourteen (then twelve) years. How successful that work has continued to be, our readers already know. The BIBLICAL WORLD has therefore great pleasure in announcing that it has been appointed by Mr. Petrie to represent his work in America. Bulletins from the field will appear from month to month, with illustrations of the excavations in progress, and subscribers to the enterprise will thus be continually informed of the advance of the work and its more important results. The Chicago Woman's Club last summer appointed a committee which is now in the field securing subscriptions for the E. R. A., as it is coming to be called. This committee is the working force of the CHICAGO SOCIETY OF EGYPTIAN RESEARCH, which will perhaps become one of the local societies in a national organization. Each member subscribing \$5 or upward receives a copy of the annual volume recording the excavations and presenting the results, with explanatory text and scores of plates. This volume is amply worth the above minimum subscription, and at the same time the subscriber is assisting a great archæological work of interest to everyone, but of peculiar interest to the biblical student. The undersigned, at his address, The University of Chicago, will receive the subscriptions of any who are interested in unearthing and *bringing to America* the rapidly disappearing remains of this ancient people, among whom the Hebrews dwelt.

In addition to the *historical* data, some idea of the *tangible* results

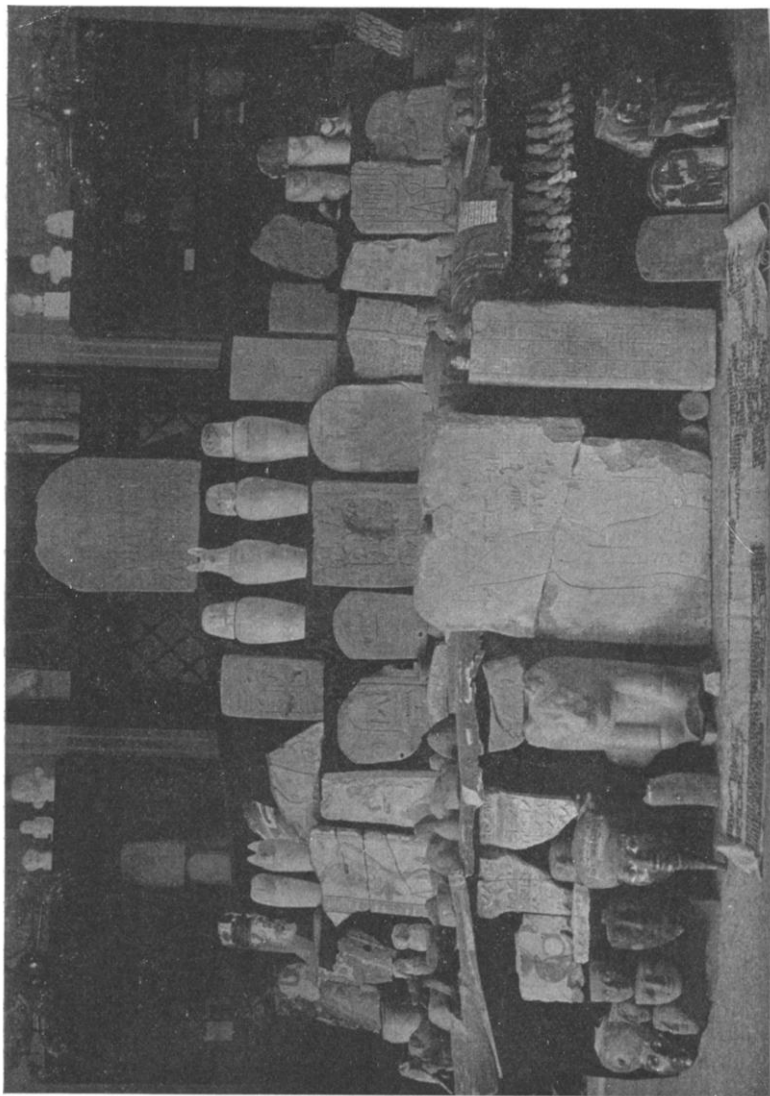


FIG. 1.—PART OF THE ANTIQUITIES SENT BY MR. PETRIE FROM HIS DISCOVERIES AT THEBES LAST WINTER,
AND NOW IN HASKELL MUSEUM.

accruing from the work of the E. R. A. may be obtained by a glance at Fig. 1. Above is a good sandstone grave tablet, beneath which are four excellent canopic jars in which were preserved the viscera of the deceased. On the left of these is a rectangular sandstone block, bearing



B

A

FIG. 2.—A. A SANDSTONE TABLET OF DHUTMOSE IV (XVIIIth DYN.). B. A LIMESTONE BLOCK BEARING THE CARTOUCHE OF RAMSES II (XIXth DYN.) CUT IN OVER RELIEFS OF QUEEN HAT-SHEPSOWET (XVIIIth DYN.).

the double name of Siptah, one of the last kings of the XIXth dynasty. On the right of the jars, a similar block bears the name of the "Chief Treasurer, Bay." Next it is the inscribed base of a black basalt statue, beside which is a sun-dried brick; this and other bricks of the collection are good examples of the sort made by the Israelites, and they bear royal names from the period of the sojourn in Egypt. At the extreme right of this upper line is a box containing 196 ushebti figures belonging to one person and intended to do his work for him in the next world—a feat accomplished by means of magic. Two interesting pieces occupy the extreme right of the second row; they are enlarged in Fig. 2. *A* is a sandstone tablet representing the King Dhutmose (Thotmes) IV offering an oblation to Amon. It was erected to com-

memorate a victory over Ethiopia, for the line at the bottom states : "Possessor of Cush, the vile, which his majesty captured in his victories." *B* (Fig. 2) is a limestone block from Ramses II's Theban temple, the so-called Ramesseum, inscribed with his name cut in over

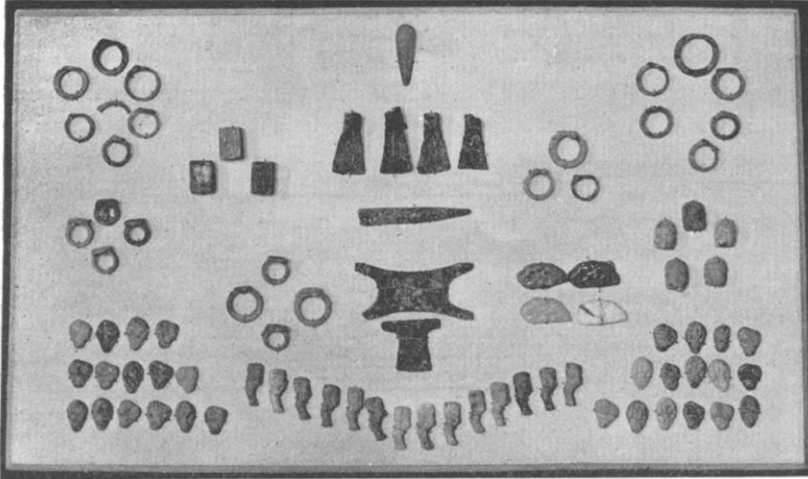


FIG. 3.—BRONZE TOOLS AND GLAZES FROM THE FOUNDATION DEPOSIT OF KING SIPTAH (XIXth DYN.).

earlier reliefs of Queen Hat-shepsowet (XVIIIth dynasty), showing that Ramses II stole the block from her neighboring temple of Der-el-bahri. Going back to Fig. 3, the sandstone block just under the four jars, which bears the partially defaced name of Thotmes IV, was likewise plundered by Ramses II from a neighboring building of the former king. At the right of this block is a fine limestone grave tablet of one Beby and his wife Hudedef. Next to the right is a copitic tombstone bearing the cross. At the left end of this same row are two blocks of colored relief, likewise stolen from Queen Hat-shepsowet's temple by Ramses II. Next these on the right is a sandstone fragment bearing the name of Merneptah, who erected the "Israel tablet" discovered by Mr. Petrie (see January BIBLICAL WORLD). In front of this row are spread out many smaller objects which we will not attempt to describe. A number of excellent pieces are ranged upon the floor. At the extreme right are fragments of painted coffins, three rows of good ushebti figures, and below these two round-top tomb tablets of wood finely painted. Next these, at the right of the middle, is a tall,

narrow limestone block with three lines of text on the front recording the names and titles of a deceased royal secretary, Amon-nekht, and his sister, Tewēremhēb. In the middle is a large sandstone block (three feet, two inches by two feet, three inches) from the tomb of a Theban priest, Zedhutefankh; it bears a fine head of Osiris in the form of a Horus-hawk. Next this block is a splendid bust of the lioness-goddess, Sekhmet, cut in granite and polished. The sandstone fragments at the left of the goddess bear a sun-hymn containing the name of Dhutmose III (XVIIIth dynasty) at the top. On the floor in front are the fragments of a mummy net. Numerous cartonnage fragments of XXIIId dynasty coffins are also included in the collection.

In Fig. 3 is a series of objects from the foundation deposits of King Siptah; in the center bronze tools, around these are pottery rings, beads, scarabs, and models of legs of beef, dressed geese, cattle and the like. Similar objects from the foundation deposits of Queen Tauser's temple and also of the Ramesseum are in the collection.

Pieces of gold overlay bearing the names of King Siptah and the chief treasurer, Bay, from the foundation deposit of Siptah's temple, are to be seen in Fig. 6.

Many other objects of interest in the collection our space will not permit us to mention.

A letter just received from Mr. Petrie, dated Beni Mazar, December 29, 1896, says: "Here we are only beginning and have as yet tapped Roman stuff alone." Mr. Quibell, Petrie's assistant, is at El-Kab. Much is to be expected from the work of both, and it is to be hoped that everyone will show a substantial interest in this work of recovering the long-forgotten past.

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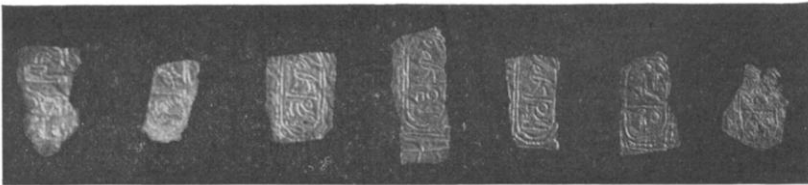


FIG. 4.—PIECES OF GOLD OVERLAY BEARING THE NAME OF KING SIPTAH (XIXth DYN.) AND THE CHIEF TREASURER, BAY.